2. Un-official Note of the Revenue Commissioner, dated the 17th November 1931, stating that there is no objection to give a trial to the scheme outlined in the resolution of the Agricultural Board.

ORDER THEREON No. D. 3752-72—A. & E. 242-30-2, DATED 29TH JANUARY 1932.

Government are in general agreement with the suggestions of the Agricultural Board for co-ordinating agricultural activities in Districts and are accordingly pleased to recommend for adoption by the District Boards the procedure indicated in the above resolution.

2. As the posts of District Economic Superintendents have since been abolished, the functions assigned to them in the resolution will be performed by the Officers on whom their duties have devolved.

B. T. KESAVA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Administration of the Forest Department for 1930-31.

READ—

Report on the Administration of the Forest Department in Mysore, for the year 1930-31, received from the Chief Conservator of Forests in Mysore, with his letter No. C. 60, dated 29th October 1931.

ORDER No. G. 6077-100—FT. 134-31-8, DATED 27TH JANUARY 1932.

Recorded.

Area of State Forests.—The Area of State Forests at the close of the year was 3406·64 square miles while that of reserved lands was 303·21 square miles. The area brought under protection forms 16 per cent of the total area of the State inclusive of Village Forests.

Reservation and Settlement.—Fifty-four blocks were awaiting settlement at the close of the year. The number awaiting settlement is large and the Revenue Commissioner is requested to see that the settlement operations are pushed through. The Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to arrange for the expeditious disposal of proposals for reservation still pending.

Minor Forests.—The area of Minor Forests comprising 243 blocks in the Divisions of Shimoga, Sagar, Bhadravati and Kolar was 290·58 square miles at the close of the year. The Chief Conservator and the Revenue Commissioner are requested to examine and report if the objects aimed at by the introduction of scheme have been achieved and what further measures are necessary to make it a success.

Village Forests.—The area of Village Forests at the close of the year was 93 square miles as against 90·83 square miles in the previous year. Owing to financial stringency the Special Officer employed on the Village Forest Scheme has since been withdrawn. The District Forest Officers should be required to take steps for extending the scheme and for making it popular with the Village Panchayets.

Demarcation.—One hundred and two miles of permanent lines were cut during the year as against 113 miles during the previous year. Eighty miles of preliminary lines were also cut during the year and 5125 miles of existing lines repaired.

Forest Surveys.—Information as regards the total work to be done, the programme of work for the year and how far it was carried out, should have been furnished as called for in the review of the report for 1929-30.

Working Plans.—Over 50 per cent of the area of the State Forests is worked under regular working plans and the rest under provisional plans. Steps should be taken to work all the important forests under regular working plans.

Buildings, Communications and other works.—All the existing roads inclusive of brilde-paths were repaired at a cost of Rs. 22,730 and 51 miles of road and 26 miles of birdle-paths were opened during the year. The expenditure on the construction of new buildings amounted to Rs. 17,518. The Bangalore Sandal Koti was shifted to Sanky's Lodge at Malleswaram which became vacant on account of the transfer of the Sandal Oil Factory from Bangalore to Mysore. Several works for improving water supply in the forests and forest lodges were carried out during the year by the Department. Government note with pleasure that some charitably disposed gentlemen in the Tumkur and Hassan Districts have constructed or repaired at their own cost kattes in State Forests.

Lumpsum Grazing Fees.—The recovery of this item of revenue is said to be not satisfactory and the amount outstanding is heavy. The Revenue authorities are requested to co-operate with the Forest Department and see that the arrears are brought down.

Damage to Sandal Trees.—The number of cases pending disposal at the end of the year was 310. The Deputy Commissioners of Districts are requested to see that these cases are disposed of without further delay.

Sandal Patrol Staff.—Six cases of sandalwood smuggling were detected in the Kadur Section and six cases in the Shimoga Section by the Special Staff employed for the purpose. Out of these, five were disposed of and Sandalwood worth Rs. 3,500 was recovered.

Sandal Spike Disease.—This disease is reported to have spread during the year to the Mudibetta Forest in the Mysore District. The investigation into the causes of the disease is being pursued vigorously.

Sandalwood.—A quantity of 1,432 tons of sandalwood was supplied to the Sandal Oil Factories during the year and about 13 tons were sold in retail. The net receipts from the sale of sandal oil was Rs. 16,77,908 as against Rs. 23,29,171 during the previous year and this fall is due to reduced demand for oil owing to the general trade depression.

Lantana and other Plant Pests.—These continue to invade Forests and Plantations. Attempts are being made in the Tumkur and Bangalore Districts for the eradication of lantana by granting areas overgrown with it for temporary cultivation. It is noted that the experiments for the eradication of lantana and utilisation of charcoal made from it are being continued. Government note that the steps taken to destroy prickly pear by infecting it with cochineal insect have given satisfactory results.

Game Laws.—Rules under the Mysore Game and Fish Preservation Regulation II of 1901 were revised and issued during the year. The formation of a Game Sanctuary in the Chamarajnagar State Forest was also sanctioned with a view to a scientific study of the life history of different kinds of Game.

Sylviculture.—It is gratifying to note that the year under report was a good one for all the principal species such as sandal, teak, honne, beete, matti in the deciduous belt and nagasampige, kiralbogi dhuma and balgi in the overgreen zone. Teak planting on a large scale was undertaken successfully for the first time during the year and sandal dibbling was also carried out on an extensive scale.

Afforestation.—The work of afforestation was continued on Chamundi, Gopalaswamy and Bababudan Hills during the year and special attention was paid to the nursery of fuel and economic species started in the Hulikere area to plant up the treeless tracts in the neighbourhood of the Irwin Canal.

Fuel Reserves.—The result of attempts made for the formation of fuel reserves by restocking the blank areas in the much denuded plantations of Maidan Districts should be briefly referred to in future reports.

Exploitation of Timber.—The quantities of timber cut in forests, brought to depots and sold during the year were 5,39,878 c. ft., 5,27,913 c. ft., and 4,29,021 c.ft. respectively as against 7,79,454 c. ft., 6,65,229 c. ft., and 5,96,471 c. ft. in the previous year. Besides this, 70,929 sleepers were supplied to the Mysore Railway Department, and the Mysore Iron Works and 5,108 poles to the Electrical Department. The reduction in the scale of operations is due to poor demand for timber.

Financial Results.—Including Sandal Oil net receipts and the previous year's balance of Rs. 5,26,648 the total demand for the year amounted to Rs. 37,28,757 out

of which a sum of Rs. 32,06,647 was realised and Rs. 38,995 written off leaving a balance of Rs. 4,83,115 at the end of the year. On account of trade depression, the purchasers of timber were granted extension of time to pay up their dues and the tangadi lessees were allowed a rebate and permitted to pay the balance in two instalments and the leases for 1931-33 were given to the same contractors for Rs. 3,00,000 exclusive of cesses.

The expenditure under I Conservancy and Works during the year including that on the Creosote Plant amounted to Rs. 12,00,368 as against Rs. 12,65,712 in the previous year.

Deputations.—Messrs. K. Krishnaswamy and B. P. Ramakrishnan were sent during the year to Germany for higher studies in Forestry.

Health of the Departmental Staff.—Seventeen deaths occurred during the year among the members of the Departmental Staff. With a view to give medical relief to the staff and labour employed in unhealthy localities the opening of a Forest Dispensary at Thadasa (Bhadravati Division) was sanctioned during the year. Special rules were also framed during the year for the grant of leave to Forest Officers so as to enable them to recoup their health and keep themselves fit to discharge their duties.

Touring and Inspection.—The itineration of the District Forest Officers of the Shimoga and Kadur Divisions is poor and that of the District Forest Officers of Kolar, Mysore, Bhadravati and Tumkur is also not adequate. Their explanations should be taken and submitted to Government.

Working of the Creosote Plant.—Government note that the quantity of timber treated during the year was the largest since the Plant was installed and the net revenue during the year was Rs. 30,536. Special efforts should be made to popularise the use of creosoted scantlings for house building and other purposes and thus enable the Department to find a market for the kinds of timber for which there is not much demand at present.

Fuel Supply to the Mysore Iron Works.—A quantity of 63,865 tons was collected during the year in the forests of the Bhadravati Division and 21,270 tons in the Shimoga Division for supply to the Iron Works.

Lac Industry.—A total quantity of 1038 maunds of crude lac was collected during the year. The demand for washed lac and lac products continued to be very poor and only a sum of Rs. 5,329 was realised by the sale of the products of the Lac Factory.

Rafting of Timber.—On account of the too rapid rise and fall of the Kabani river and the consequent unsteady flow of water only 6842 c. ft. of timber were rafted down the river to Hommergally Depot as against 7377 c. ft. during the previous year.

Accounts Inspection.—Twenty offices were inspected by the Financial Assistant to the Chief Conservator during the year. This appointment was abolished at the end of the year.

Saw Mills.—The Saw Mill at Shimoga worked for only seven months and was shut down from 1st February 1931 as it had a large stock of sawn materials for which there was no demand owing to trade depression. The machinery was completely overhauled and the old stock that had accumulated sold. It is reported that the furniture section opened as an adjunct to the Saw Mill is likely to prove profitable. Government hope that the Saw Mill at Kalkere will be put into working order this year.

Timber Seasoning.—Government are glad to note that experiments in regard to the seasoning of different kinds of timber have been started at Shimoga and that observations on the moisture contents and general behaviour of the several species are being carefully made and recorded. This work is of great value and should receive continuous attention according to a well thought out programme.

General.—The general trade depression which characterised the year under report adversely affected the financial results of the Department. Government are glad to note that the Administration of the Department in the year was satisfactory and that improvement works according to the general policy of forest development approved by Government are making steady progress.

R. RANGA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.